



FEMA

News Release

September 1, 2011

DR-4013-NE-00X

FEMA Media Contact: 402-479-3111

Nebraska Media Contact: 402-471-7428

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

LINCOLN, Neb. – As Nebraskans know all too well, natural disasters can occur any time of year. And the effects usually last a long time, as this year's Missouri River flood demonstrates once again.

September marks the eighth annual National Preparedness Month sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in partnership with Citizen Corps and the Ad Council.

A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare is this year's slogan. "As we move forward with planning for this year's events and activities, we also recognize that this September marks the 10 year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks," said Michael L. Parker, federal coordinating officer for the Nebraska flood disaster.

Disasters come in all shapes and sizes as well as from many different causes. Only a few are large enough to attract national media attention or qualify for a presidential major disaster declaration. All can bring misery, injury and even death to those who are unprepared to cope with them.

FEMA's *ready.gov* website is an excellent place to begin preparing. It contains a wealth of information to help you get ready for any emergency. You can start with just the basics. Everyone should at least have a basic emergency kit.

But if you've already done that, you'll learn how to expand your readiness. In fact, if you want you can even learn how to become an expert and teach others how to prepare.

Start by going to www.ready.gov and exploring the various links. Be sure you take the first three steps:

1. Get a Kit
2. Make a Plan
3. Be Informed

After that, check out the link to become a National Preparedness Month coalition member. It is the path to being able to participate in national and regional discussion forums with fellow coalition members and FEMA representatives.

###